

Remarks

Claims 1, 2, 7-12, 17-19 and 25 are pending and are under consideration.

Applicants thank the Examiner for removing all previously set forth rejections.

New rejections apply.

Claims 1, 2, 7-12, 17-18 and 25 are rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Mor, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 6,146,757.

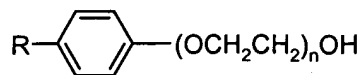
Applicants respectfully rebut these rejections.

Mor is cited as teaching wettable polymer fibers comprising a first and a second wetting agent. The first wetting agent can be an ethoxylated alkylphenol having the formula



as defined in claim 3 therein.

The Examiner equates **R-C₆H₄** to the present "alkyl group". The group C₆H₄ is well known to those skilled in the art as a divalent aromatic phenyl group. The **phenyl** group is a portion of the **phenol**. Thus, the ethoxylated alkyl**phenol** may be drawn as:



The phenyl group cannot be equivalent to an alkyl group due to its aromatic nature (high unsaturation).

See for example claim 5 of Mor (the ethoxylate group here is incorrectly inverted).

Alkyl groups are well known to those skilled in the art to be fully saturated as opposed to the highly unsaturated aromatic phenyl group. See for example the last paragraph and structure on page 6 of the present disclosure. When R₁ is 30 carbons, it is a fully saturated alkyl group.

As phenyl and phenol groups are clearly non-equivalent to alkyl (saturated) groups, Applicants submit that these rejections are addressed and are overcome.

Claim 19 is rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Mor.

Applicants respectfully rebut this rejection.

As pointed out above, the first wetting agent of Mor does not read on the present compound of component (b). Mor does disclose that the second wetting agent may be an alkoxylated fatty alcohol. However, the alkyl group of Mor is from 8 to 22 carbon atoms (col. 6, line 32).

There is a clear line of demarcation of the alkyl groups of Mor and the present alkyl groups of 28, 30 or 32 carbon atoms. Further, the number of ethoxylate groups of Mor is from 1 to 100 (col. 6, lines 31-40). The number of ethoxylate groups in the present compound of component (b) is 2 or 3.

The compositions of the present invention thus cannot be obvious from the disclosure of Mor.

Applicants submit that this rejection is addressed and is overcome.

Claims 1, 2, 10, 11 and 17-19 are rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Patel, et al., U.S. Pat. No. 5,348,736 in view of Mor.

Patel is cited as disclosing long chain alcohols in stabilized fiber or hair treating compositions. Patel discloses several UNILIN long chain alcohols, col. 3-4. Patel also teaches the UNITHOX products, the ethylene oxide derivatives of the alcohols (col. 21, lines 40-45). No guidance is given towards the number of ethoxylate units or the length of the alkyl chain for the UNITHOX derivatives.

The disclosure of Patel adds nothing over the disclosure of the UNITHOX Ethoxylated Alcohols Technical Release (1996), of record in the present application. The Technical Release discloses a range of UNITHOX products.

Submitted herewith is a Rule 132 Declaration by Dr. Matthew Gande. In the Declaration, a compound of the present component (b), UNITHOX 420 is compared to two other ethoxylated alcohols, UNITHOX 480 and 750, not of the present claims.

The present compound of component (b) has R_1 of 30 carbons and an average of 2.5 ethoxylate units. UNITHOX 480 has R_1 of 30 carbons and 42 ethoxylate units. UNITHOX 750 has R_1 of 50 carbons and 17 ethoxylate units.

The sample with an ethoxylated alcohol of the present invention displays a water absorption of 450%. The samples with UNITHOX 480 and 750 display a water absorption of 280% and 150%, respectively.

The data of the Gande Declaration reveal that not any ethoxylated alcohol will provide polyolefin fabrics with superior water absorption or wettability. The select compounds of the present invention provide for unexpected superior weattability results.

Applicants submit that in light of the results of the Gande Declaration, that these 35 USC 103(a) rejections are addressed and are overcome.

In view of all of the above, Applicants submit that the 35 USC 102(e) and 35 USC 103(a) rejections are addressed and are overcome.

The Examiner is kindly requested to reconsider and to withdraw the present rejections.

Applicants submit that the present claims are in condition for allowance and respectfully request that they be found allowable.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachment: Rule 132 Declaration (Dr. Gande)

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